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ORACLE

WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
6100 ROLLING ROAD
SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22152

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Westfield opens despite summer damage

By Nikki Werking

Oracle Editor

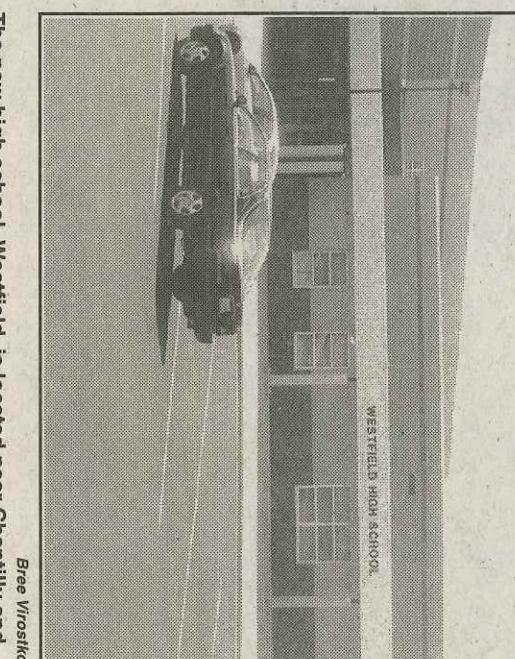
WS sports teams have a new competitor in the Northern Region: the black and gold Bulldogs of Westfield High School.

The new school in Chantilly opened on September 5 with other Fairfax County schools, despite the water and fire damage suffered in early July.

"The damage was caused by a construction worker who threw his cigarette into some debris," said Westfield faculty member Diane Warfield. "We had to replace floor and ceiling tiles. It caused about \$50,000 in damage."

About 1600 freshman, sophomores, and juniors attend Westfield High School right now. Like many new schools, there will be no senior class until the second year.

Students of Westfield are pulled from areas which used to be part of Chantilly, Centreville, and Oakton High Schools. Student who would be a rising sophomores or



The new high school, Westfield, is located near Chantilly and has a few former WS teachers.

Steady population causes full hallways

By Lauren Decot

Viewpoint Editor

At first glance and first shove, it appears that the halls are a lot more crowded. In actuality, there aren't any more students than there were last year. With 2250 students, the population at WS this year is higher than it was expected to be, however, there are the same amount of students in the school than last year.

"I was told to expect about 100 less students than last year, but that didn't happen," said Principal David Smith.

Although the population is the same, to some of the

approximately 569 new freshmen, the number of students in the halls is overwhelming. It can be hard to travel through the halls without bumping into someone. However, with four different grade levels, overcrowding to a certain extent is expected.

"It's exactly how I thought it would be. WS services a large neighborhood," said freshman Will King.

The number of students brings up a safety issue and the question of personal space. It can be hard to do simple tasks such as opening a locker without having to be cautious.

"There's no space for me to open my locker. It's a daily struggle for me to open it without almost ramming into someone's face," said sophomore Tesyl Martinez.

It can be uncomfortable to be so close to so many people at once. For some students, it is not a problem.

"I enjoy running into people actually. It gives me a chance to say hi to my friends. It's a problem though when I'm running late to class," said junior Sheema Shalid.

It's inevitable that high school will be crowded and without building a new school, it is hard especially in bad weather.

"I don't see any solution to overcrowding,"

said King. "What are we going to do? They could build more trailers, and be called the trailer

c l a s s ,

to correct.

Trailers are used, but they are often not practical.

They're small and it can be hard to walk outside for

c l a s s ,

especially in bad weather.

"I don't see any solution to overcrowding,"

said King. "What are we going to do? They could build more trailers, and be called the trailer

older this year had to choose which high school they wanted to attend. Parent could elect to keep their children at their original high schools if they did not want to switch. This option, however, will not be for available for students until next year.

Unfortunately for students of the new school, Westfield was unsuccessful in its attempts to become a late start model school. Classes start bright and early at 7:25 AM and end at 2:10 PM.

"If we were a late start school, classes would not have started until 8:30 or 9 AM," said Warfield.

Four WS teachers, Mike Greiner, Joann Sevel, Rick Stegman, and Greg Rupert, left this year to teach at Westfield. The main reason for switching schools is that the Chantilly location is more convenient.



Moment of silence receives attention

New Virginia state law causes minor controversy among WS students

By Mike Waldron

Oracle Editor

Last spring, the Virginia state legislature in Richmond passed a bill to allow for a moment of silence in all public schools. Governor James Gilmore signed the bill—which took effect on July first—but the impact of such an important decision remains uncertain.

WS Principal David Smith decided to have the moment of silence during the morning, between the pledge of allegiance and the announcements.

"I have no problem with voluntary prayer in school, as long as it's not during a state sanctioned time."

—junior
Billy Henline

"I haven't had much

feedback," said Smith. "But I have had a couple of students expressing concern about having a moment of silence during school."

One of those students is junior Billy Henline, who has been leaving the classroom during the moment of silence to recite the first amendment.

"I have no problem with voluntary prayer in school, as long as it's not during a state sanctioned time," said Henline.

The new state law only requires a moment of silence, but to some students, including Henline, it is an attempt to put

prayer and religion back into school.

"The key issue with the moment of silence is the wording, and the key word is prayer," said WS government teacher James Morris, who suspects that this law will eventually be ruled unconstitutional due to the fact that it mentions prayer as one of the acceptable activities for the moment of silence.

Administrators report that most classes are quiet during the announcements. In some classes, however, students and teachers have been talking

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DEBUTS NEW

MEMBERS.

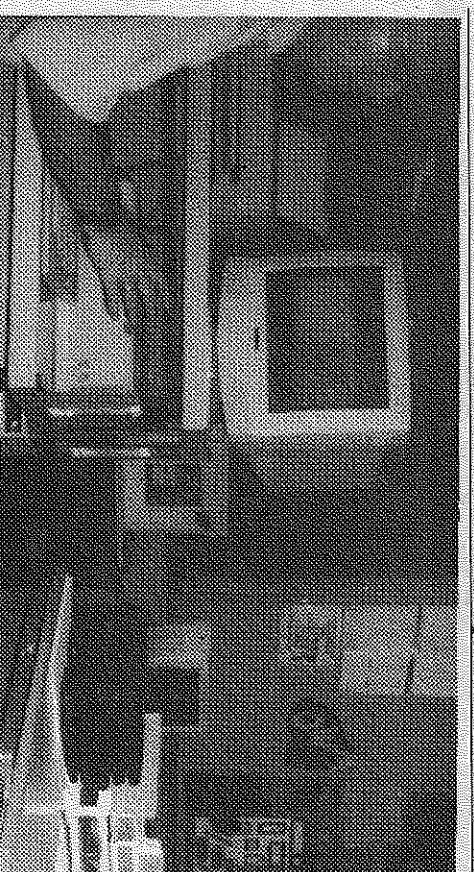
Big Brother shows his face at WS

Big Brother is watching you. Or at least he will be very soon.

WS is piloting software, called Instructional Materials Services (IMS), which allows teachers access to more information about students online and use of various other online teaching tools. The program has five pieces. The first two, online attendance and the online gradebook, have already gone into use. The next two pieces to go in will be assessment tools for teachers and a variety of online teaching resources. But it's the fifth and final piece of the program, called Parentconnect, that is troubling.

Parentconnect is part of the software that would at first allow parents access to their children's report cards and interim grades online. However, the program also has the capability of letting parents see which assignments their children are missing at any time he or she pleases. At present, if a parent wants to know which assignments the student is missing, he or she would have to schedule a parent-teacher conference and come into the school, but with this software parents could access the information from their office or home without the student or teacher ever knowing.

The frightening part is that this opens the door to progressively more invasive



Maggie Attiberry
Math teacher Tom McGrath uses the new computer software to take attendance.

measures. Teachers often see another side of students that parents would never see and for good reason; there are some things students are much more willing to tell

Editorial

SSShhh...Moment of Silence causes controversy *The beginning of each school day now starts with a silent minute*

By Emily Morris

Features Assistant

Another day begins which we start by sitting down after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance so that we may be quiet for our minute of silence.

The law says we must have the minute of silence at the beginning of each day. It says we may pray, meditate, think constructively, or do any other silent activity. That four letter word, PRAY, in black and white is the problem. That word is what brings the church into our government and school system.

But honestly I can't think of or have seen one kid who crosses his hands and bows his head during the minute of silence. I realize not everyone is Christian and that is not my problem. It is the fact that with the four letter word "pray" it brings the church into the state. Students may pray in school, and many students do. They assemble around the flag pole or in the lobby, or their own time and that is fine.

I have seen students in class who find this minute a chance to do unfinished homework. Wrong is a silent activity. Others see it as a time to write a note to a friend. Could a teacher tell us on that? We are doing it during the minute of silence, and it is a silent activity. If we run away the note or pass it on before the minute is up, what can the teacher do? Others find it a good time to get a little sleep, but by the time a comfortable position is found, the minute is over, so maybe that one minute should be changed to five minutes.

In high school students do not have to pray, but in Loudoun County elementary schools, some teachers stand and pray. First graders are taught to respect and obey the teachers. A first grade may not realize she does not have to pray when the teacher is standing in the front of the room praying.

This is the web that the church is going to find their way into the school system. Some religious teachers, parents, and students will be requesting that the Lord's Prayer be recited after the pledge of Allegiance. And if a student does not wish to recite the Lord's prayer then they may just sit silently.

This whole minute of silence is only going to result in more problems as people find ways to bring church further and further into the government and school system.

By Enrice Han

Oracle Staff Assistant

It is the one moment of the day when I feel completely relaxed. Although the moment only lasts for a minute, it's a good addition to the school day.

In keeping with the spirit of religious freedom as stated in the First Amendment, there is no reason why students should not be allowed to have a moment of silence during the school day during which they can pray or do as they choose. Every student fills a moment of silence in a different way, through a thought, a prayer, or a memory.

It's a good idea to have a moment of silence because it's good to have a minute each morning to collect our thoughts. In 1962, the Supreme Court decided that public schools did not have the power to authorize school prayer. This decision made public schools in the U.S. more atheistic than many European nations.

For example, crosses still hang on the classroom walls in Poland, and the Ten Commandments are displayed in Hungary. There are prayer held at the beginning of legislative and judicial sessions and every President has mentioned a divine power in his inaugural speech.

Ever since prayer has been removed from schools, there has been more trouble at school and a lot more names committed by teens.

Six states now permit silent moments — Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama. Silent prayer was ruled unconstitutional in 1983 as long as it had no religious intent or purpose.

Many people say that the state is trying to incorporate prayer into their lives but the moment of silence is not meant only for prayer. It is stated that students have the choice to meditate, pray, sit quietly, or engage in any other silent activity that they choose to do.

So if you're ever feeling really stressed don't forget you still can always relax on that moment of silence every morning. It is the one moment where you can worry about nothing and just think about the day ahead.

THE ORACLE

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For example, Fairfax County has also purchased Abacus, a 45,000 question SOL database. The purpose of this software is to let teachers pinpoint which SOL objectives students have already mastered. But does your physics teacher really need to know if you learned all the state capitals in fifth or sixth grade?

And future technical innovations could be even more invasive. Programs and hardware are being worked on that, perhaps 10 years down the road, would hook schools up with infrared computer systems. Every student will have a computer that resembles a laptop. Infrared sensors in the ceiling would allow the school's computers to know exactly where any student is at any given time.

Homework would be done on the computers, and be automatically uploaded to the teachers' computers when the student enters the building.

In a time where intimacy is made public online it seems hardly surprising that schools would be the next on the bandwagon. But this is an invasion of privacy and the schools should be stopped before it goes any further.

Winston Smith, watch out, that bright cold day in April of 1984 is coming very soon.

Fairfax County has its perks

By Amy Whipple
Oracle Editor

Forget everything I've ever said about Fairfax County. I honestly love it here, and I just can't get enough.

I've thought about this for quite sometime. Amidst all the complaints about too much busy work and pretty popular people, there is something genuine and unique about the world we are subjected to by living in Fairfax County.

Where else is there such a rich and diverse culture, most of which is brought to us by the thousands of military families alone? I don't think I could even count the number of things I have learned about various parts of the world just from my military friends.

In other parts of the country, coming to DC is sometimes a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but not here. Here we can see everything DC has to offer after only a 20 minute subway ride. Where else can students go to

the National Archives for an afternoon field trip? Not many other places can say that.

I also like to think of Fairfax County as the America of school communities. Where else can we get such a good education with one of the highest college admission percentages in the country? The work that teachers and students alike put into this county, and more importantly this school, is just amazing.

I have yet to talk to anyone who comes from a place where learning and thinking about the next step, usually college, is so important to adolescent life. I always assumed that everyone went to college; it was the thing to do. After talking to people in the Midwest especially, this isn't the case at all. It's a big deal in many smaller towns if you do go to college. Here, it is almost a sin if you don't.

This isn't saying that we always have to enjoy what we do and where we live while we do it, but something keeps us coming back.

The 'perfect buffet' as a metaphor for life

By Julie Davis
ETC. Editor

Sneeze guards are important. At least that is what my Granddad Phelps implied when I asked him the characteristics of a good buffet.

My grandfather, Warren Howard Phelps, began his quest for the perfect buffet about ten years ago. He was looking for a complete, tasty menu, good service, and overall satisfaction. Yet visit after visit to various buffets, Granddad was not reaching that goal. He needed more variety. He would find one he liked, but always pondered the fact that there might

be one even better out there.

Born in Anacostia, DC in 1922, Granddad never had it easy. He spent the majority of his childhood and teenage years during the depression, so his family had to make ends meet. After serving in WWII, my grandfather enrolled in some engineering classes through the army. His family could never afford college, but he knew that he wanted to be an educated man. He did well, and was employed by Bell Atlantic for forty years.

How could the history of Granddad's life be related to his quest for the perfect buffet? Well, Granddad is never satisfied. When he faced a life of being a laborer, he

studied night and day for his engineering license. When his family grew out of the small home that the children grew up in, he put off retiring for a few years so he could purchase a larger one.

Recently, I noticed a new rock on my grandmother's finger. It was an engagement ring, but my grandmother already had the one that he gave her fifty-two years ago. This was bigger and shinier. When I asked about it, Grandma told me that when they were on their daily walk at the local mall, Granddad strayed away into a jewelry store, only to return with a jewelry box. Knowing this man

it was the one he always intended on giving her, and waited for when the time was right.

What I've learned from my grandfather and his quest for the perfect buffet is that you can never be entirely satisfied. A person can never achieve perfection, but you can spend your life trying. I know that when I complete a task, I will stop and think about how it could be better, because that is what life is about—forever attempting perfection.

Granddad wants excellence, not just adequate sneeze guards or a complete dessert bar, he wants to know that he did the very best he could. He continues to look for the perfect buffet, and when he finds it, I can assure you he will go back for seconds.

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Spartan Spotlight

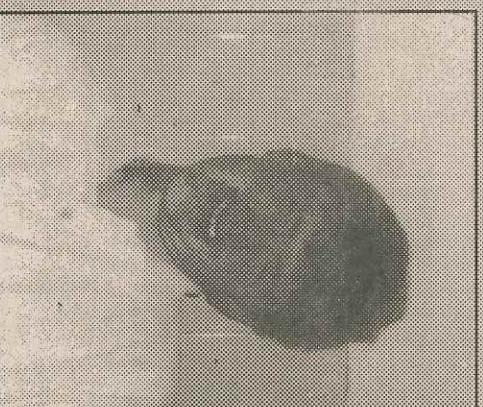
If you could vote today, who would you vote for?



"Harry Brown, because Libertarians are the only party who are willing to get people the freedom they deserve."

"Bush, because I believe he's our last hope."

"Gore, because I want him to continue the legacy of the Clinton administration."



—Meghan Mahoney, sophomore

—James Biskev, senior



"I would vote for Bush, because he shows personality."



—Geoff Biddick, senior

—Steven Bassler, senior

Back to school, back to Rome Toga, toga, toga!

By Jennifer Schonberger

Features Editor

find.

Who? What? When? Where? And most important "What did they wear?" was the topic of conversation after the Back to School dance.

While students sported the traditional khakis and jeans, the theme was togas, which surprisingly some students did come dressed in. Some, however, took the risque route from short skirts to low cut tops.

"I thought everyone was going to wear a toga," said senior David Boleens. "When I got there, though, not many seemed to be dressed in them."

From white sheets to sheets with Sesame Street characters, some even accessorized their toga ensembles with green leaf crowns, plastic shields or plastic armor.

"You had to go with a cool toga on," said senior Lindsey Clouser, "and what better way to go than with the Carebears?"

While some students put thought into their outfits, others just put on whatever they could

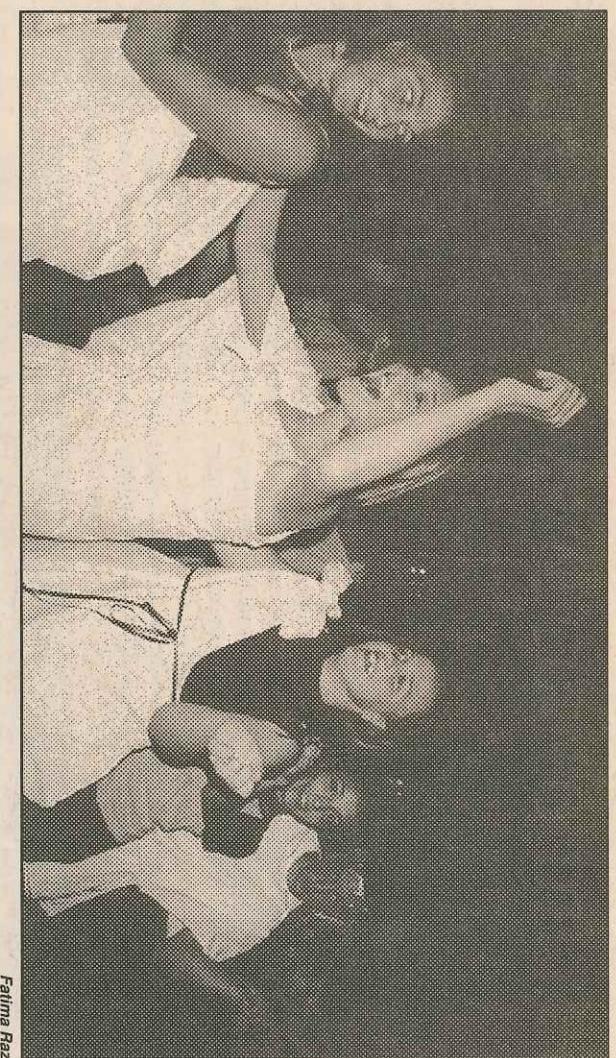
"Macarena" were played.

Strob lights that accompanied the popular tunes illuminated the gym, students, and their togas. "I had a great time," said freshman Sierra McKeon, "the togas were interesting and the music was good."

Over the years there have been various themes for the Back to School Dance, but this year the togas really seemed to make an impact.

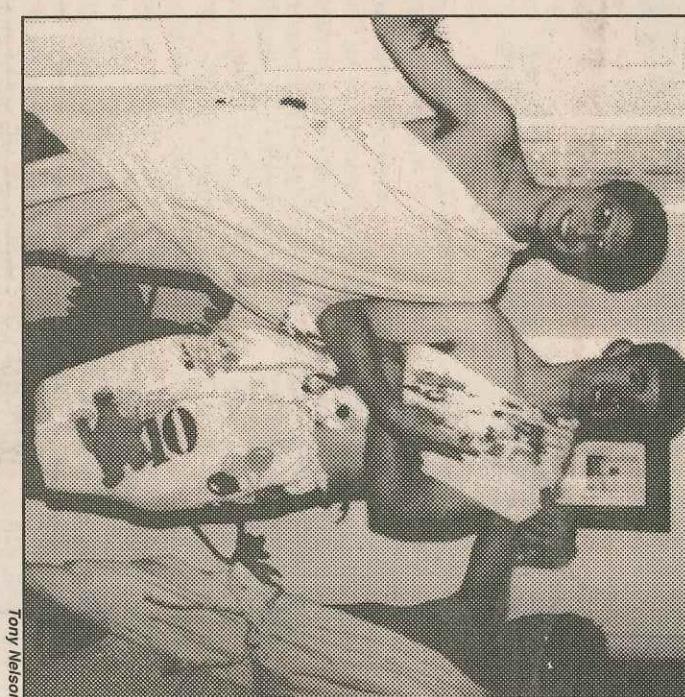
"I think one of the things that made the Back to School Dance better than other years," said senior Matt Nelson, "was wearing togas."

Students found the togas added character to the dance. "It was fun to see everyone there in sheets," said freshman Alex Wooldridge.



Fatima Razl

Juniors Jenny Askin, Elizabeth Hebdah, Jacqueline Flood, and Lia Ovalar form a congo line at the back-to-school dance, (above). Seniors Matt Nelson, Dan Edwards, James Hayne model their togas for the camera before making an appearance at the dance (right).



Tony Nelson

What students know about their government

With the presidential and congressional elections heading our way, The Oracle decided to see how well the students of WS understand and care about the federal government.

Joseph Lieberman (Vice Presidential Democratic Candidate)

Know: 80.26%

Do not Know: 19.74%

Al Gore (Democratic Presidential Candidate)

Know: 50%

Do not Know: 50%

Ralph Nader (3rd Party President Candidate)

Know: 52.64%

Don't Know: 47.36%

George W. Bush (Republican President Candidate)

Know: 89.47%

Do not Know: 10.53%

Dick Cheney (Republican Vice President Candidate)

Know: 84.21%

Do not Know: 15.79%

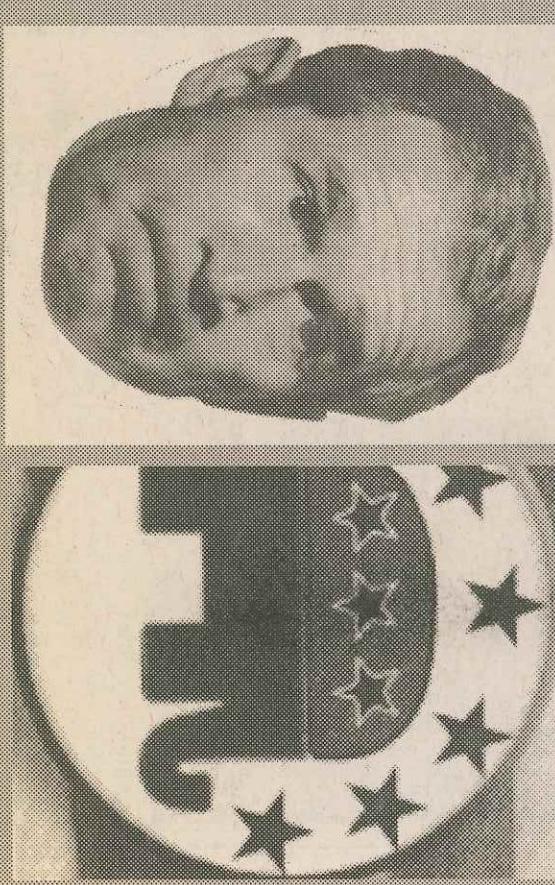
Pat Buchanan (Reform Party Presidential Candidate)

Know: 46.06%

Do not Know: 53.94%

- Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court? (William Rehnquist) 24.34% knew, 75.65% did not know
- What are the three branches of government? Legislative: 89.79% knew, 10.21% did not know; Executive: 78.26% knew, 21.74% did not know; Judicial: 84.31% knew, 15.69% did not know
- In what year was the Constitution signed? (1789) 20.87% knew, 79.13% did not know
- How many justices are on the Supreme Court? (9) 39.4% knew, 60.6% did not know

-Polls compiled by Emily Morris and Jen Schonberger



114 students were polled for the poll above

Scooters make a comeback

From doing stunts to riding around town, portable transportation proving popular



By Myles Curran
Sports Editor

The late 1980s brought the original fad for scooters; the summer of 2000 brought the fad back.

History is repeating itself as scooters are now the hottest selling items in many stores. The Sharper Image, a national chain, says its their best-selling item and have a scooter for sale on the front page of their website.

"Scooters are fun," said junior Adam Calderone. "I would rather drive in my car, but scooters are another option."

The most popular scooter is the Razor, which is sold at the Sharper Image and other stores. The Razor is in demand because it is priced lower than most others at only \$99.

Senior Chris Behrmann scoots home from the parking lot.

Go for the carbs

By Angela Fiorino
ETC Editor

While Dr. Robert Atkins and the no-carb diet addicts would say, "steer clear from pasta and other starches," most WS athletes do the opposite.

Over the past couple of years Dr. Atkins' high protein, low carbohydrate diet has become a fad for teenagers and adults who are looking to lose weight quick and keep it off. The diet consists of eating lots of protein and high fatty foods such as meats, cheeses and fruits. Many people disagree with this diet, especially athletes who can't afford to lack senior varsity swimmer, Erin Zoller. "Pasta is power."

"If you do the low-carb diet for an extended period of time,

your body doesn't get enough nutrition and it is unhealthy," said sophomore JV football player Clint Miller. "It is good to eat a lot of meat for protein, but you need a mixture of carbohydrates also."

In order to get enough energy to play a sport the body must store simple carbohydrates such as sugar and more complex ones like potatoes and pasta. Many sports teams from WS have pasta dinners the night before games or after school on the day of games.

"It is really important to eat

lots of carbs before a race because it helps you swim faster," said senior varsity swimmer, Erin

Zoller. "Pasta is power."

Every Friday game day after school the girls varsity basketball

team goes to Outback Steakhouse and eats salad, pasta and bread before their pre-game rituals. Most athletes find it necessary to eat carbohydrates before they play a sport, whether it is as simple as some bread or a candy bar or more complex like pasta or potatoes.

"We always have pasta dinners for the volleyball team, because eating lots of healthy carbs before a game gives me lots of energy," said junior Kirby

Bevis, who plays on the varsity

volleyball team. "I also eat

simpler carbs for the sugar that

you can get in lollipops."

However, some athletes believe that it is more important to focus on physical fitness and

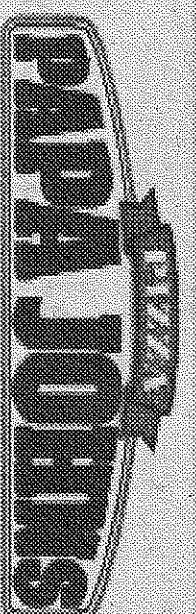


Jenne Eiermann

Seniors Matt Kirk and Chris Pellegrini take a drink.

White some people need to lose weight and carefully watch what they eat. Senior football player Josh Hill works on a different diet.

"Besides eating lots of carbs, I also mix a weight gainer into my milk to help speed things up," said Hill. "It is very important to get enough energy when you play a sport so you can play it well."



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Society divided by stereotypes

By Caitlin Marvin

Managing Editor

Women belong in the kitchen. Men are immature. Fat people are lazy. Girls who date around are sexually promiscuous. Guys who like musicals are gay. Blondes are dumb. Jocks are dumber.

These are stereotypes people automatically attach to others. It doesn't matter that we might get to know a person later and change our minds- he wears high water jeans and went way above the science fair project requirements. So today, he must be a nerd. Or that guy is going out with a younger girl-we assume he's with her for the physical part of the relationship and she must be naive.

We naturally see the world with connections between different character

traits. If a boy were tall and handsome, we would be more inclined to guess that he was muscular rather than overweight. The same goes for a girl who is intelligent and attractive. We'd like to finish by saying everyone loves her instead of saying she is unpleasant. But we can't always get what we want.

We want to label everyone-good or bad. We feel the need to place people in little categories because it's easier to do that than get to know them. If we have had past experiences with a certain type of person, they are more important than what meets the eye. But just because your last boyfriend was into himself doesn't mean every cute guy you meet will be too.

People know when

they're stereotyping. We have these systems of rules in our heads that file individuals away in categories. Feminist, workaholic, juvenile delinquent. We do this to just simplify the task of getting to know someone.

When we have a set link of traits in our minds that we think go together, they form a connection. This mix of traits that we might consider typical of a jock is really what a jock is to us. When we meet someone in life or in the media who fits into one of our head files, we feel reassured.

We like everyone to be in place, in their stereotype. We don't need to think any further.

The media takes what we categorize and creates people that we find believable. It only reinforces our stereotypical

versus what is actually true. Stereotyping is a very natural process to us. We simply band together with the media to misunderstand the world and the people in it.

We stereotype because we

don't know any better. We do it because we're jealous of others. We see pieces of ourselves in them that we don't like. We stereotype because it's the easy way out. We do it because someone did it to us.

ideas. We start to assume that all white people can't dance and all frat boys are drunks. Foreigners are bad drivers. Male hairdressers are homosexuals and plus size actresses can be the best friend but they'll never get the guy.

But the media is not to blame for our distortion of what goes on in our minds versus what is actually true. Stereotyping is a very natural process to us. We simply band together with the media to misunderstand the world and the people in it.

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because it's the easy way out.

We do it because someone did

it to us.

ideas. We start to assume that

all white people can't dance

and all frat boys are drunks.

Foreigners are bad drivers.

Male hairdressers are

homosexuals and

plus size actresses can be

the best friend but they'll

never get the guy.

But the media is not to

blame for our distortion of

what goes on in our minds

versus what is actually true.

Stereotyping is a very natural

process to us. We simply band

together with the media to

misunderstand the world and

the people in it.

We stereotype because we

don't know any better. We do

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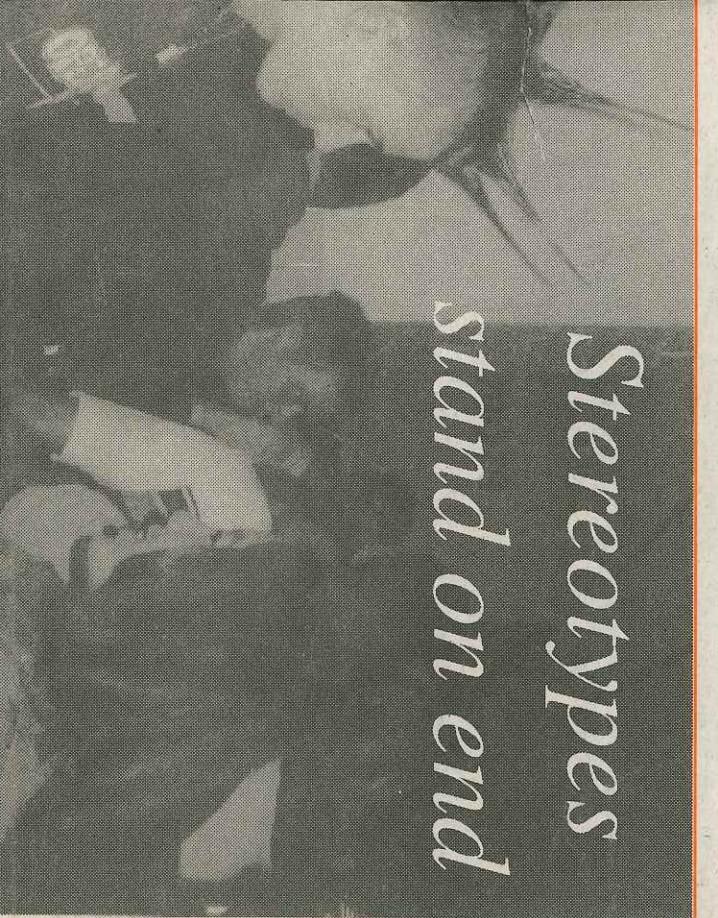
ourselves in them that we

don't like.

The Moldy Galaxy Gang

The Moldy

Stereotypes stand on end



while talking with senior Stephen Juliano and junior Jessica Atkinson.

Lauren Sheffield

Friendships transcend high school

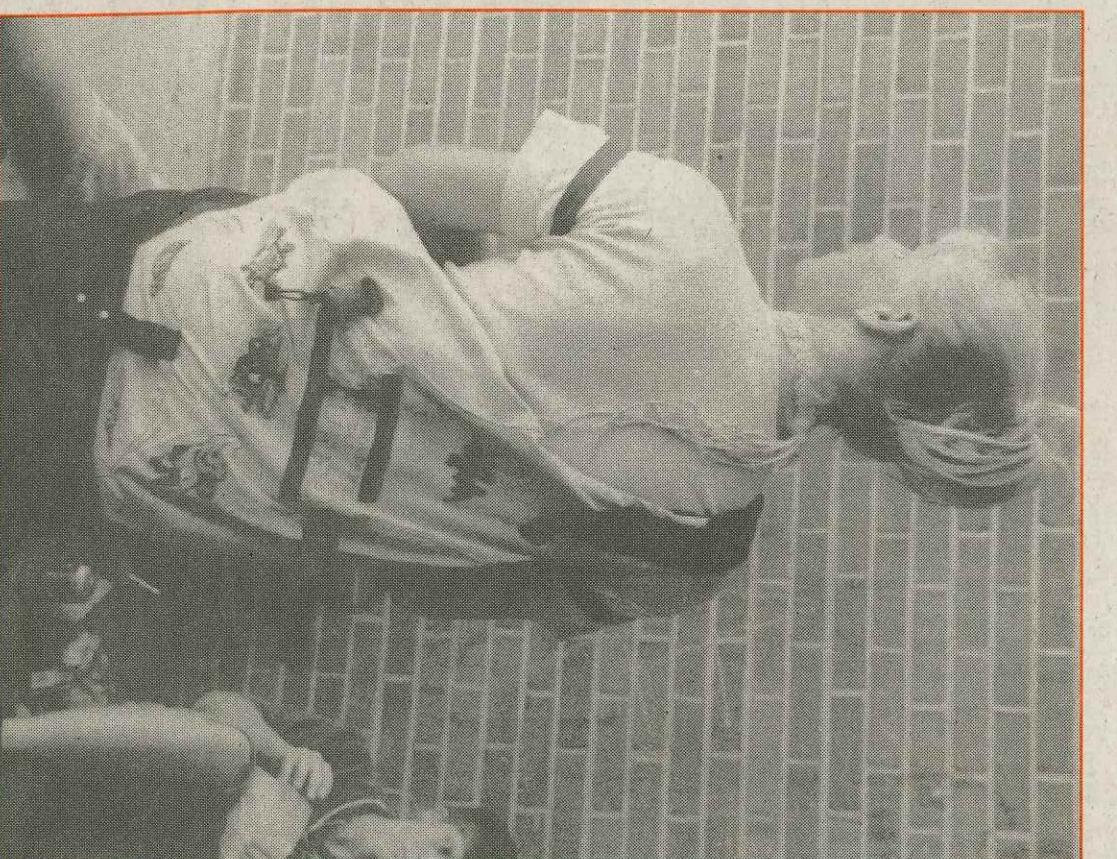
of them find that it can be harder to keep the flame going. Junior David Panczykowski recalls a one-and-a-half-year relationship with Lindsay Lowe from Lake Braddock. "It was hard trying to mix friends," said Panczykowski. "It was almost like we were from two different worlds, I couldn't keep tabs on her." Panczykowski also said that jealousy was a factor, and sometimes there was a lack of trust.

"I trusted her for the most part, but there always a thought in the back of my mind. We always had different school events, and I didn't know anyone at hers, nor did she know anyone at mine."

Sometimes age differences can raise eyebrows. Especially in adolescence, a rub off on her."

are different.

"We both are who we are," said O'Reilly, "But I think my anti-school perspective is starting to



Sophomore Lauren Linder expresses originality through her personal style.

Russ Waddell

By Amy McKeever
Inside Story Editor

Hanging out at the Max with Zack, Slater, Screech, Lisa, Jessie, and Kelly was one of the most popular television shows in the country when WS students were in elementary school. The show revolved around a group of high school kids who were best friends and always had some interesting adventure in their lives.

"It was a high quality show," said senior Kendra Kojesich. "I watched it all the time."

The show's main characters each had their own distinct personalities, as

with most other shows. However, "Saved By The Bell" characters were formulated from various stereotypes. The boys were the smart-aleck blonde, the dumb jock, and the dorky brain, while the girls consisted of either cheerleaders that were fashion crazed and popular or ultra-feminist newspaper staffers. This group of teens, comprised of various stereotypical groups, were best friends and remained so throughout high school and even into college.

"Slater was sporty and Jessie was the smart one," said sophomore Melissa Zoller, "when I used to watch 'Saved By The Bell', I didn't really think about those stereotypes. But looking back, they were

Television imitates life bias

By Amy McKeever

Inside Story Editor

Homecoming Court:Freshmen—Julie Matters
and Chelsey WatersSophomores—Farrell O'Neill
and Nancy Waters

Juniors—Jessie Freer and Elisa Gonzalez

Seniors—Hollis Alexander, Beth Argentieri,
Megan Howie, Meghan Ogilvie, Amanda

Thornburg, and Brianna Nonni

**Homecoming Court and
Mr. Spartan nominees****Mr. Spartan:**

Freshmen—Deerrick Braziel and Desmond Braziel

Sophomores—Antoine Ware and Deerrick Deese

Juniors—Nick Little, Jason McDonough, Dan

Weinberg and Trey Jordan

Seniors—Zak Myers, Clayton Williams, Brian

Fahy, Andrew Johnson, Dane Whitworth,

and Ryan Yanovich

Seniors begin college search over lunch

Career center aids in research process, resources allow easy access for applications**By Laura Robinson***News Editor*

As underclassmen are busy eating and talking during lunch in the sports lobby, seniors and juniors spend their lunch period learning about college.

Sack lunches are held on Fridays in the Career Center. Senior counselor Nancy Wright and Career Center Coordinator Sue Rexford discuss issues relating to college and applications.

The first Senior Sack Lunch was held on September 14 and informed students of the early decision process and the electronic process. Between the two lunches there were about 30 students.

"We had a great group," said senior counselor Nancy Wright. "The room was about full and Mrs. Rexford gave great advice on college applications. I was

looking forward to hearing it, and it was very interesting. She gave excellent tips about electronic security and things to look out for."

On October 13, the topic will be "College Essay," and October 27's topic is "How To Research Scholarships." After January, the sack lunches deal with junior issues and cover "The Junior Packet and College Admissions," "Campus Assessments and Junior Packet," and "Campus Visits."

Most seniors have already started their college decision process and a few have applied as part of early admission. If seniors apply early admission and are accepted, they must go to that college.

This may give some students an advantage in being accepted into the college of their choice.



Russ Wadell
The volleyball team is one of the two new teams for WS. This year's volleyball coach is graphic arts teacher Tisha Carter.

Season sports new teams
By Clint Crosier
Business/Systems Editor

New types of athletes are ready to step onto the playing field at WS. This year, volleyball and roller hockey are new additions to the list of school-sponsored sports.

Last year, 13 Fairfax County schools developed a volleyball program and this year volleyball made its debut at WS.

Graphics art teacher Tisha Carter has taken up the role of head coach for the volleyball team. Carter, who has played volleyball at many levels, including USA Volleyball, is bringing experience to the new team.

Approximately 50 people showed up for the tryouts. "I would say we had a pretty good turnout," said Carter.

Of the 50, only 24 girls remained in the program. The varsity and

junior Varsity teams only took 12 players each.

Although the varsity team has started 1-7, Carter expects improvement in the latter part of the season.

"I expect that we will have a winning record in the end," said Carter.

A roller hockey team was also added this year to the school's list of sports.

Growing in popularity, roller hockey had enough interest to go from the sneer-club level to a school-sponsored sport.

The team is coached by Barbra Brooks, mother of Dan Brooks, a WS student.

The team practices on Tuesdays, junior varsity at 5:30 and varsity at 6:30 p.m.

One varsity roller hockey player is optimistic. "We're going to have a good year," Mike Austin said.

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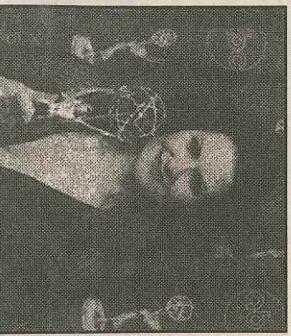
ENTERTAINMENT

Awards shows receive mixed reviews

By Nayna Gupta

Inside Story Editor

Beginning with the People's Choice Awards in January and continuing through the Video Music Awards (VMAs) in September, viewers each year are presented with nine months of celebrities walking to podiums,

Megan Mullally from "Will and Grace" with her Emmy.

air-kissing, and thanking the world for the honor of an award.

"Having so many award shows can be boring, but they are good because they give musical artists and actors more opportunity to be recognized for their work," said sophomore Alex Nelson.

On September 7, the VMAs were aired on MTV. Known for its controversial performances and provocative style, the show attracts around five million viewers each year. At this year's VMAs, groups like the Red Hot Chili Peppers and *NSync walked away with numerous awards. The public rivalry between rapper Eminem and pop artists Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera also added an

excitement to the show.

"People like to watch the VMAs and other awards shows because they like to see spontaneous actions their favorite celebrities make. It gives people something to talk about," said sophomore Liana Carrera.

Even with the variety of awards shows presented each year, some find that many musicians and actors are still not recognized for their work.

"Most of the music awards are only given to mainstream artists," said junior Jess Potter.

"Other lesser known groups

don't receive as much publicity."

The Much Music Awards, aired from Canada, fills this gap

by providing less mainstream

artists with the opportunity to get more exposure within the musical world.

The Teen Choice Awards, sponsored by Seventeen, was aired on FOX in late August. The winners,

chosen through polls

in Seventeen and online, reflected the

"The West Wing" show off their

opinions of teenagers Emmys.

"Viewer's choice awards

don't really have anything to do

with talent, it is all popularity,"

said sophomore Brian Lukens.

While some complain that

there are too many awards

shows, their numbers continue to

increase in an effort to recognize

everybody."

all the talent in the entertainment

industry.

Tyler Christesen, a

sophomore at WS said, "I think

just because there are so many

different preferences among the

public, no awards show will

ever be able to please

everybody."



Megan Mullally from "Will and Grace" with her Emmy.

By Laura Robinson

News Editor

Eve6 rocks.

Their new music is catchy and many of the 12 songs on the new album "Horoscope" stand out compared to other new rock music.

The first single from the album, "Promise," is comparable to Eve6's other hit songs "Inside Out" and "Lecch."

RCA Records signed the group while still in high school, and it's evident that band members Max Collins, Jon Sibels, and Tony Fagenson are

very well matched. Their harmony flows together and no person in the group outshines another.

The two best songs by far are "Jetpack" and "Here's to the Night." "Jetpack" tells the story of a friend who is afraid of every type of relationship and is always on the go. The catchy imagery of a man with a jetpack strapped to his back make this song stick in your head. "Here's to the Night" is a slow and sweet song about a couple saying good-bye.

"On the Roof Again" is about



"Horoscope," the new album from Eve6, came out in stores on June 25 of this year.

By Jenn Carlson
Viewpoint Assistant

This fall brings Winnie the Pooh characters to life and to the stage of WS.

Second year drama students are gearing up for Spartanfest by donning Piglet and Tigger costumes as the favorite children's story will be produced at WS.

The intention of the production is to entertain children who are attending Spartanfest with parents.

"It's something for the kids to do," said junior Rebecca Weiner, a drama student participating in Winnie the Pooh.

While rehearsals for Winnie the Pooh wind down, preparations will already be in the works for the annual fall play in November. Auditions for "You Can't Take It With You" by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart are taking place at the end of the month, so there is no time to relax. This full length comedy was an easy choice for drama teacher Mary Jo Levesque.

"I chose this play because it is well written, all ages love it, it's clean, it's funny, and all the characters are just wonderful pieces for actors," said Levesque. "There are no bad parts in it!"

Attending this play can be a great event for the whole family and contains a real life moral. The play is about spreading the word that life is not just about making money. The family in the play strongly believes that you should live only if you do what you enjoy and remember that money is not always an issue.

"It's a message for all time," said Levesque.

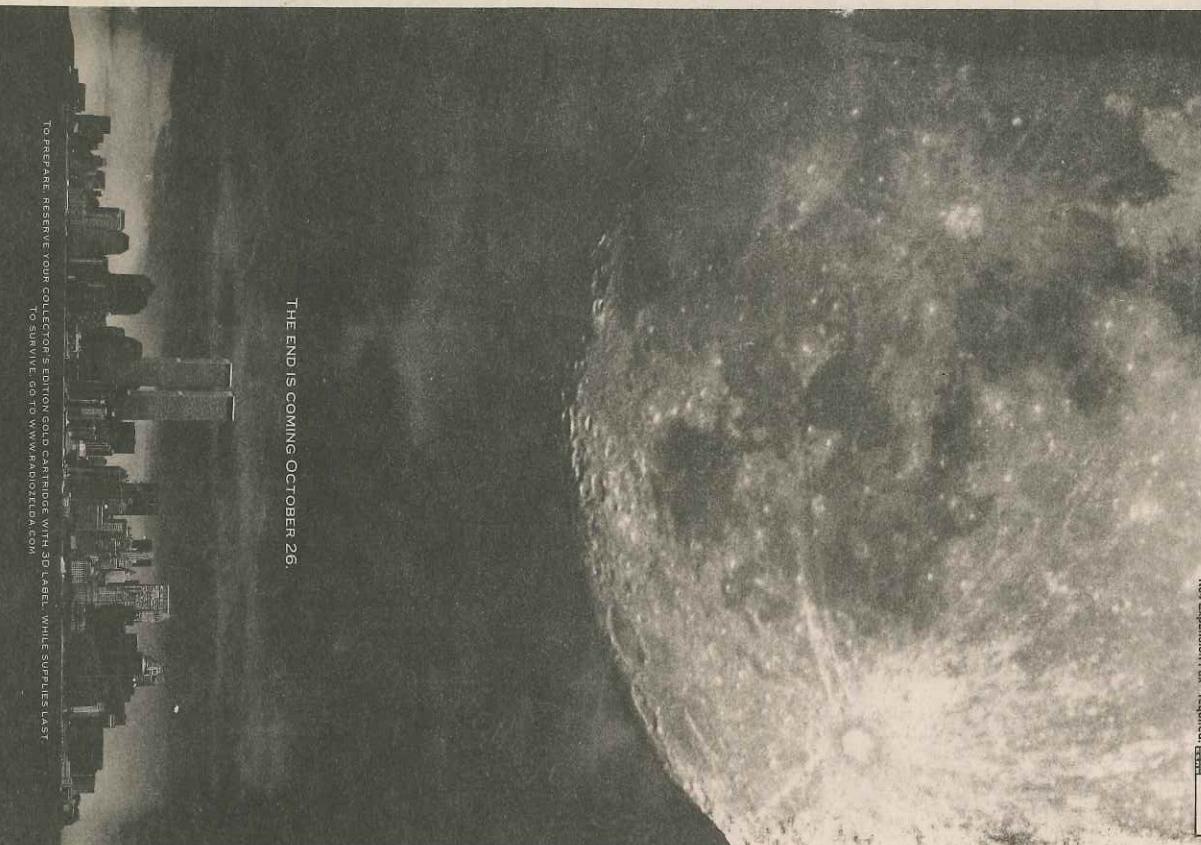
While all this is going on, junior

Melissa Wilmoth still finds time for yet another play. She auditioned for a part she found advertised in the newspaper and

she found herself playing the part of Sandy in the favorite play "Grease." After school is done and homework completed, Wilmoth can be found at the Lazy Susan Dinner Theater in Woodbridge performing on stage for a live audience.

Planned for later this year is a winter performance of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." The drama department is still trying to squeeze this in between the Spartanfest production and "You Can't Take It With You."

It will be a very busy but greatly productive year for the WS drama students as they delight children, entertain other WS students and their families, and most importantly, do what they love to do.



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Junior Melissa Wilmoth (right) poses before performing in the popular show "Grease."

Open Pick\$

Movies:

"Plunkett and Maclean"—This extremely entertaining and action-packed film is about two highway men during the 18th century who pose as high class members of society in order to steal from the rich. It stars Robert Carlyle, Jonny Lee Miller, and Liv Tyler. Although not initially appealing to high schoolers because of the time period, it is one of the best movies I have ever seen. The acting is incredible, the plot is witty and exciting, and the sequences are very interesting to watch.

Music:

Stroke9 "Nasty Little Thoughts"—Although I usually don't invest in highly commercial or profiled CDs (because they only have a few hits and I might as well download those few songs for free off of Napster), Stroke9's debut CD is impressive. It has the two popular songs I love, "Little Black Backpack" and "Letters," but the rest of the songs are just as enjoyable (and in my opinion, potential future hits). Check out tracks 4, 7, and 11.

Books:

Girl, Interrupted, by Susannah Kaysen—This book tells the true story of Kaysen's experience during her stay at a mental institution. It takes place in the 60's when Kaysen was a teenage girl. The story is told in informal first person (which makes it more interesting to read), the characters are compelling and real, and what she learns during her stay is invaluable. Kaysen comes out of the institution with a better understanding of all people, including herself. The book is a quick read (I read it in a day), and worth purchasing. The Oscar-winning movie "Girl, Interrupted," based on the book, is also worth checking out.

-Compiled by Jenny Braudaway

Baltimore harbor's fun

By Mike Ara

Oracle Staff Assistant

The aroma of the many harborside restaurants, musicians playing loudly right next to the harbor's water, and the boats that lazily glide by these fascinating scenes.

Baltimore Harbor is a place that has something for everyone. For people who like animals, there is the Baltimore Aquarium. The aquarium and its other two buildings sit on the harbor. This and its many animal exhibits make it a must-see sight. Some of their exhibits include stingrays, sharks, and dolphins. To get into the aquarium, there is an admission price of \$15 for adults and \$8.50 for children under 11. For more information, call (410) 576-3800.

For people not interested in animals, there are other things to do, such as visiting the Maryland Science Center. People visiting the center can experiment with hundreds of hands on exhibits, including a who-done-it exhibit, meant to teach the science of criminology. The center also has an Imax theater with several features. To get into the building, there is an admission price of \$20 for adults and about \$15 for children. There are separate prices for tickets to the Imax theater.

Besides the Baltimore Aquarium and Maryland Science Center, there are other things to do, such as listening to a

musician or seeing an event in the Amphitheater. The Amphitheater is an outdoor stage where many groups perform each weekend. These groups play or entertain the large audience for free.

There are also historical places to visit on Baltimore Inner Harbor, such as the U.S.S. Constellation, the last warship of the Civil War that provides hands-on fun.

The University of Virginia in Charlottesville invites visitors to take campus tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and at 11 a.m. on Saturdays through October 31. UVA also encourages sitting in on a class. This can be done by calling ahead or viewing the open class list on UVA's website.

U.S. News ranks the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg as the best small public university in the nation. William and Mary will be having an open house on October 21, but reservations are required by October 7 and another open house on November 18, reservations are required by November 4. Check-in and registration is at 8 a.m. followed by an opening session at 9 a.m. At Blow Memorial Hall, campus tours and information sessions are available September-November at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and at 10 a.m. on Saturday's. Overnight visits are also accessible with a two-week advance notice.

One hundred and seventy-six acres of Fredericksburg are occupied by Mary Washington College. Mary Washington is a public school that offers information sessions Monday-Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each session is followed by a 60-minute campus tour guided by a student group, Washington Guides. Senior applicants for admission may attend an overnight visit from mid-September to early April with a two-week notice.

Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond

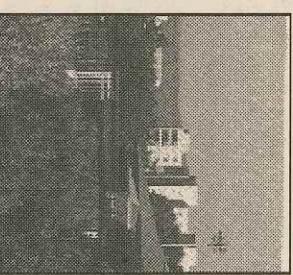
provides students opportunities to visit VCU throughout the year. At 11:30 a.m. every Monday-Friday and at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays an admissions representative holds 30 minute information sessions. After the information session an hour-long campus tour follows.

-Compiled by Priyanka Tandon

College Visits

James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia is a public school that can be visited any time during the year, except holiday weekends and university breaks. To visit JMU, a Reservation Form is available online and must be filled out two weeks prior to a visit. A visitor's guide, parking pass, directions, and lodging information are mailed to your house after the form has been received.

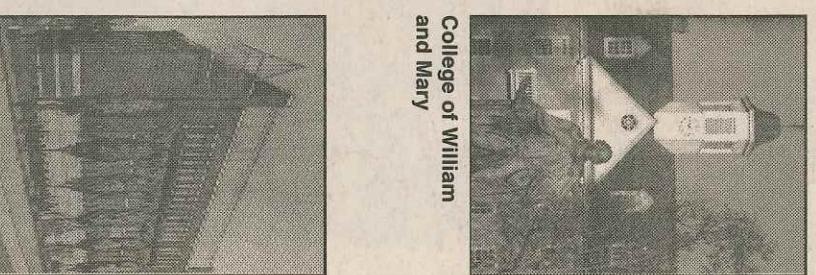
About 20 to 30 minutes from WS, George Mason University provides many opportunities for students to explore their campus. GMU will be having an open house on November 12 at 1 PM. The day starts with a welcome and opening session, followed by information sessions on financial aid, student services, and academic programs. There are campus tours every 15 minutes and refreshments served. GMU also offers campus tours every weekday at 10:15 AM and 2:15 PM that begin on the second floor of the Johnson Center.



James Madison University



Virginia Commonwealth University



College of William and Mary

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Field hockey comes up

Short on varsity, JV rosters

By Melissa Lipman

Entertainment Editor

The Junior Varsity and varsity field hockey teams began this season on a slow note.

Fewer students than usual tried out for both the varsity team, which is coached by Mary Layher, and the junior varsity team, coached by Karen Heughan.

In past years the team has had many players try out, and a number of girls have been cut.

This year there are 18 girls on the varsity team and 17 on the junior varsity team,

whereas last season the numbers were for the ball! reversed. While the teams are no smaller, no one was cut.

The coaches attributed lack of players



Bree Virostko
Alison Molan and Laura Johnston fight for the ball.

mainly to other sports, including cross country and the new volleyball program, as well as seniors who graduated last year. There are also some benefits that can be attributed to having fewer players on a team.

"Most everyone gets to play an equal amount," said senior Laura Johnston.

One of the biggest problems the team had to face were the new goalies. Some of the goalies, like the new ones, volunteered to fill the gap, while others were asked to.

"We basically didn't have anyone to play goalie and I said all right, I can do it."

said sophomore Leonna Carrera, one of the varsity goalies for the season.

Layher noted that the girls filling the



Bree Virostko

Bridget Mahoney and Jess Potter battle for possession during a grueling practice.

The field hockey team is struggling this year because of player shortages.

Junior Andrew Ush steps up to a concrete platform and stares into the woods. He takes a few steps forward and throws his frisbee.

Frisbee golf is among one of the new hobbies that WS students have discovered. With close locations such as Burke Lake Park and Pohick Bay frisbee golf is an easy and fun sport to play.

"I play frisbee golf almost every weekend with my friends," said Ush. "It is a fun thing to do not only because I am good at it, but also because it is free."

The frisbee is the only playing material that costs money, and only eight dollars at that. For county residents, it is free to play at all Parks.

ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Maureen Hagan

Maureen Hagan is a junior and has been running cross country and track since her freshman year.

She was an All-District runner both her freshman and sophomore years.

Hagan finished in fourth place at the Virginia Tech Invitational on September 16.

Nickname: Mo

Reason for running: I started cross country my freshman year to keep in shape for soccer, but I ended up quitting that. Now I just run.

Most embarrassing cross country moment: My freshman year, I fell at the beginning of a race and someone stepped on me."

Favorite part of running—Compiled by Nikki Wiering

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Frisbee golf soars to new heights of popularity around the area

By Matt Kaitz

Oracle Staff Assistant

Junior Andrew Ush steps up to a concrete platform and stares into the woods. He takes a few steps forward and throws his frisbee.

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The frisbee is the only playing material that costs money, and only eight dollars at that. For county residents, it is free to play at all Parks.

The objective of the game is to throw the disc at a hole which is actually a metal pole with a chain net and a circular plate under the net.

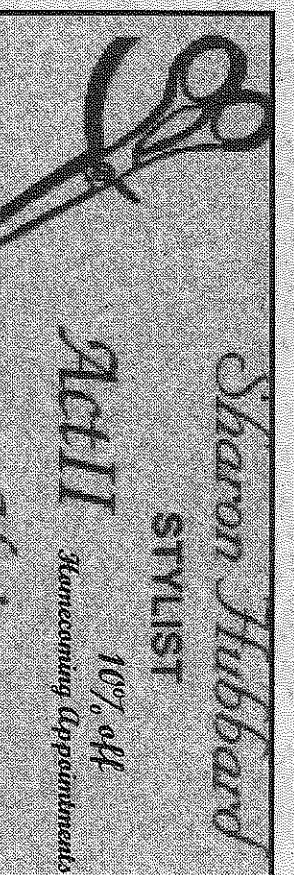
Hole distances range from 125 to 250 feet, which make par threes and par fours. The game may sound easy, but trees and bushes act as obstacles.

"The first time that I played at Burke Lake I thought it was going to be easy," said sophomore Charlie Beakman. "I did not know that all of the trees would get in the way of the holes and I ended up shooting an 11 over par."

Frisbee golfing is also a sport that can be played at home. Games can be set up with use of trees and lamp posts as holes.

"Every time I go out to play, I aim for a better score," said Ush. "At first it seems that the course is the exact same, but I end up hitting different obstacles. That is why I like to play. It is different every time you play."

Disc players from Hayfield attempt their puts on hole 11 at Burke Lake's course.



Russ Wedell

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10. While your teacher is praying/ meditating/ being silent, scribble the test answers on your desk.

9. Is the minute really a minute long? Grab a watch and find out.

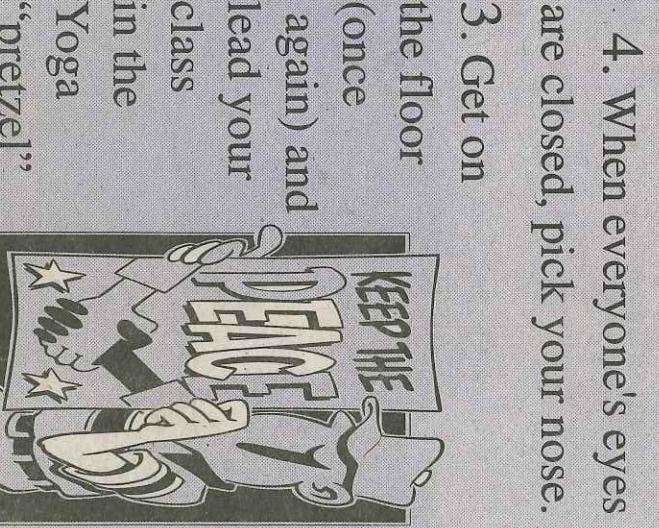
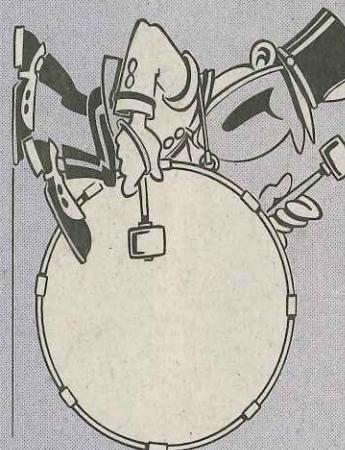
8. Just shut up, come on, its not that hard.

7. Practice the "silent language"—ASL.

6. Everyone lay down and play "Ghosts in the Graveyard". Reluctantly get up when the minute is over.

5. Read *The Oracle*—there's nothing better to do.

—Compiled by Theresa Rupp and Caitlin Marvin



Pumpkin Party!

Pumpkin Bars

2 tbsp. Butter, melted
1 3/4 c. Pumpkin (standard can)
2 Eggs
2 tbsp. Flour
1 c Evaporated milk
1/2 c Brown sugar
1/2 c Sugar
1 tsp. Ginger
1 tsp. Cinnamon
1/4 tsp. Mace
1/4 tsp. Ground cloves
1/2 tsp. Salt
1 Standard pie shell (uncooked)

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Beat the eggs until frothy. Mix in the sugars and the flour. Add in the spices and the salt. Mix in the pumpkin. Pour in the melted butter. Finally, mix in the milk. Pour the mix into the pie crust and bake at 450 degrees. Bake for 15 minutes. Decrease heat to 375 and bake for an additional 45 minutes. Remove the pie from the oven and set to cool.

—Compiled by Amy Steed

It's a mystery!

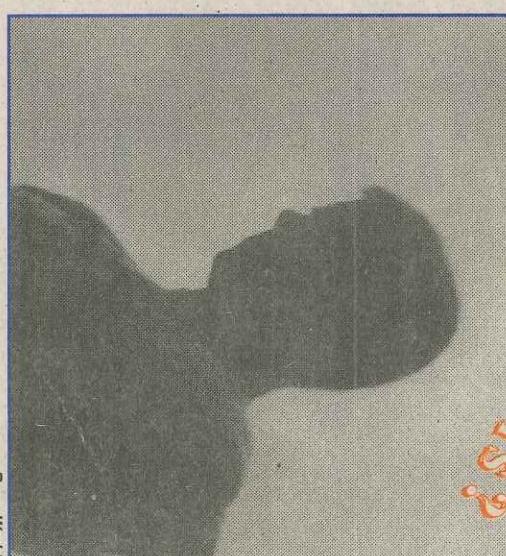
By Julie Davis

ETC. Editor

Football, basketball and summers spent on the swim team. There isn't much that the mystery person doesn't do. He stands above the school, not only because he over six feet tall, but because he is academically strong. This year, he is a sophomore. He plans to one day to attend Virginia Tech or Harvard, and maybe even medical school.

The mystery person is a middle child, whose brother graduated last year from WS. He also has two younger sisters. Still stumped? Well, last year, he played varsity football as a freshman! Study the photo and make your guess!

Do you
know
who
this
is?



Russ Macdell